

VZCZCXRO1024

PP RUEHBC RUEHDH RUEHKUK RUEHROV

DE RUEHTRO #0006 0051612

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 051612Z JAN 10

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5648

INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE

RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC

RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC

RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC

RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 6199

UNCLAS TRIPOLI 000006

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/MAG AND NEA/RA; STATE PLEASE PASS TO USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KBCT ABLD PHUM AL ECON AMGT ASUP AFIN LY

SUBJECT: LIBYA: SECTION 565 WAIVER OF PROHIBITION AGAINST CONTRACTING
WITH FIRMS COMPLYING WITH AL BOYCOTT

REF: STATE 128056

¶1. (U) The Government of Libya (GOL) does not maintain diplomatic relations with Israel. Local firms are required by national law to comply with the Arab League (AL) boycott, and would therefore not be able to sign the required U.S. certification without exposing themselves to civil and/or criminal penalties. Post accordingly requests a waiver of the AL boycott certification.

¶2. (SBU) In 2007, the Ministry of Trade and Economy informed Post that the GOL does not enforce the boycott; however, the government continues to use the boycott as a means by which to selectively sanction foreign corporations and boycott language continues to appear in contracts. Bills of lading and customs declarations for imports cannot indicate trade with Israel, and shippers are legally required to certify that no goods are of Israeli origin. Libya continues to enforce a travel ban for passports containing Israeli visas or entry/exit stamps.

¶3. (SBU) Embassy Tripoli has reviewed the contractor certification requirements and determined that without such a waiver it would be unable to obtain essential supplies and services in-country. This is particularly critical as we re-establish our diplomatic presence in Tripoli, including consolidating Embassy operations in one location.

CRETZ